

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute Claims 1, 6 and 15 with the following amended claims.

1. [Currently amended] A method of playing a draw poker game including initially dealt cards, an opportunity for a a ~~[[the]]~~ player to hold at least one of said initially dealt cards and a final hand composition, said method comprising:

placing a first wager that a final hand composition will match one of a plurality of preselected combination of cards;

dealing a hand of initially dealt cards;

selecting none, one, or more held cards from said hand of dealt cards;

offering at least one proposition bet based on a possible final hand composition after said initially dealt cards are dealt, unless all initially dealt cards are held;

accepting said at least one proposition bet as a second wager if said proposition bet is offered;

dealing one additional card to replace each card not held to provide a final hand composition;

determining if said final hand composition matches said at least one proposition bet, if said at least one proposition bet is offered and accepted; and

determining if said final hand matches one of said plurality of preselected combination of cards as to the first wager.

2. [Original] The method of Claim 1 where the possible final hand composition of the proposition bet is an improved poker hand as compared to the hand of initially dealt cards.

3. [Original] The method of Claim 1 wherein the poker game is 5-card draw poker.

4. [Original] The method of Claim 2 where the poker game is 5-card draw poker.

5. [Original] The method of Claim 4 wherein the held cards are automatically held upon acceptance of the second wager.

6. [Currently amended] A method of playing a draw poker game including initially dealt cards, an opportunity for a a [[the]] player to hold at least one of said initially dealt cards and a final hand composition, said method comprising:

placing a first wager that a final hand composition will match one of a plurality of preselected combination of cards;

dealing a hand of initially dealt cards;

offering at least one proposition bet based on a possible final hand composition after said initially dealt cards are dealt, unless it is not possible to improve the poker hand ranking of the initially dealt cards;

selecting none, one, or more held cards from said hand of dealt cards;

accepting said at least one proposition bet as a second wager if said proposition bet is offered;

dealing one additional card to replace each card not held, to provide a final hand composition;

determining if said final hand composition matches said at least one proposition bet, if said at least one proposition bet is offered and accepted; and

determining if said final composition hand matches one of said plurality of preselected combination of cards as to the first wager.

7. [Original] The method of Claim 6 where the poker hand ranking of the possible final hand composition relating to the proposition bet, is an improved poker hand ranking as compared to the poker hand ranking of the initially dealt cards.

8. [Original] The method of Claim 6 where the poker game is 5-card draw poker.

9. [Original] The method of Claim 7 where the poker game is 5-card draw poker.

10. [Original] The method of Claim 9 wherein the held cards are automatically held upon acceptance of the second wager.

11. [Currently Amended] A method for playing a poker game including an initially dealt hand of cards, a final hand composition and rankings of said poker hands, said method comprising:

placing a first wager that a final hand composition will match one of a plurality of preselected combination of cards;

dealing one or more dealt cards;

analyzing said dealt cards and undealt cards to determine possible final hand compositions;

providing at least one proposition bet for at least one possible final hand composition after said dealt cards are dealt;

accepting said at least one proposition bet and making a second wager;

dealing the necessary cards to complete the hand providing said final hand composition;

determining if said final hand composition matches said at least one proposition bet; and

determining if said final hand matches one of a plurality of preselected combination of cards with respect to said first wager.

12. [Original] The method of Claim 11 where the poker hand ranking of said possible final hand composition is an improved poker hand ranking as compared to the poker hand ranking of said hand of initially dealt cards.

13. [Currently Amended] A poker game played by a player including an initial hand of cards and a final hand of cards, comprising:

- a computing device for implementing said game, said computing device having a screen display;

- a microprocessor in communication with said screen display;

- a selection device in communication with said microprocessor for providing means by which the player interacts with said computing device;

- a power supply in electrical communication with said screen display, said microprocessor and said selection device for providing power thereto;

- a hand of cards displayed on said screen display;

- card determining means in communication with said computing device for randomly determining in succession the composition of said initial hand of cards and for randomly determining the composition of said final hand of cards; and

- card combination determining means for analyzing said hand of cards to determine possible final hands so as to provide the player with at least one proposition bet to select based on the said composition of said final hand after said initial hand of cards is displayed.

14. [Currently Amended] A poker game played by a player including an initial hand of cards and a final hand of cards, said game comprising:

- a computing device for implementing said game, said computing device having a screen display;

a microprocessor in communication with said screen display;

a selection device in communication with said microprocessor for providing means by which the player interacts with said computing device;

a power supply in electrical communication with said screen display, said microprocessor and said selection device for providing power thereo;

an initial hand of cards displayed on said screen display;

card determining means in communication with said computing device for randomly determining in succession the composition of said initial hand of cards and for randomly determining the composition of said final hand of cards; and

card combination determining means for analyzing said initial hand of cards to determine possible final hands to provide the player with a plurality of proposition bets to choose from after said initial hand of cards is displayed, and,

said card determining means determining the composition of said final hand of cards and dealing the cards needed to complete the hand, so as to provide a payout to the player based on the composition of said final hand of cards.

15. [Currently Amended] A method for playing poker on a video draw poker gaming machine including an initial deal of cards and an opportunity to hold certain of the initially dealt cards and draw additional cards so as to result in a final composition of a ~~[[the]]~~ player's hand, said method comprising:

making a wager on the final composition of the player's hand after the initial deal, but before the draw.

16. [Original] The method of Claim 15 wherein said wager is that one or more of said final hands will contain a specific card combination.

17. [Original] The method of Claim 16 wherein said specific card combination is one or more of the following: Royal Flush, Straight Flush, Straight, Flush, Full House, Three of a Kind, Two Pair and One Pair.

18. [Original] The method of Claim 15 wherein said machine automatically determines the player cards to hold when the player places the wager.